

HOME NEWS



The mental anguish of a would-be grand master demonstrated by Saul Follett, aged seven, of Hurst, Berkshire, in the 'Evening Standard' London junior chess championships yesterday.

Holiday drive by police to stop motorists drinking to excess has mixed results

By Craig Seton

One of the most concerted efforts in Britain to stop people both drinking and driving brought mixed results over Christmas. On Merseyside seven out of every ten motorists breathalysed were over the limit, but in Derbyshire a police drive kept the figures down to one in ten.

The efforts of police forces throughout the country were backed up by £12.5m government advertising campaign. Figures so far available show that the joint approach paid dividends in some areas, but there were notable exceptions.

Merseyside police said that between last Friday and Boxing Day 106 of 135 drivers breathalysed were over the limit. There were four fatal accidents in the period and 89 other casualties. There were 57 accidents in which the drivers failed to stop.

Unlike Derbyshire, Merseyside police did not conduct a special campaign against drunken drivers and relied on

routine surveillance. Several big forces adopted the same policy, believing that too great a concentration on the Christmas period would lead motorists to believe they were in danger of being caught only at that time of the year.

In Derbyshire, where special squads of police cars were detailed to catch motoring offenders, the campaign led to 61 positive and 664 negative breath tests. Nine motorists were arrested for refusing to take the test.

A measure of the success of the county's campaign came in a statement from licensees who said that trade in public houses was well down because of the police activity. Mr Frank Monk, chairman of the Derby and District Licensed Victuallers Association gave a warning that next year publicans might not bother with applications for the extension of licensing hours.

"All they mean now is that we keep the lights burning and keep on staff at double time for very little extra trade. We shall

have to examine this closely next year," he said.

In Greater Manchester 150 drivers were arrested after failing breath tests; 375 were tested. Provisional figures for Northamptonshire show only four positive results in more than eighty people tested. The police said that from the low level of positive results it appeared that drivers had heeded the warning and were cautious of the county's special Christmas campaign against drinking and driving.

The Humberside police force breath tested 174 motorists and 53 proved positive, twice as many as last Christmas.

In Surrey 101 breath tests in a total of 538 over a 10-day period were positive and in Hampshire 97 of 540 led to arrests in the week up to Christmas Eve. Since December 3, when the county force started its drink-driving campaign, 1,472 roadside tests have been carried out. More than 280 of them were positive.

Durham police reported a

"very quiet period," with few accidents. The force said before Christmas that there would be no drink-driving purge.

In Scotland, police forces reported a generally quiet Christmas period. In the Strathclyde region, which includes Glasgow, only 42 positive breath tests were reported from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day, two fewer than last year. However, in Scotland New Year is traditionally more important for celebration than Christmas.

In West Yorkshire, police said 99 drivers had been arrested accused of drunken driving. Six people died on the roads in that county over Christmas.

In Northern Ireland a tough police campaign showed results over the holiday period. In the five days from last Saturday the number of accidents was down by a fifth. Six people died and 102 were injured in 80 road accidents. Drivers have been warned that the purge on drunken drivers will continue into the new year.

Saboteurs injured in coursing field fight

From Our Correspondent King's Lynn

There was a pitched battle yesterday between hare-coursing supporters and saboteurs who started to disrupt one of the country's biggest coursing events near Swaffham, Norfolk.

Fifty supporters left the field at Westacre when the saboteurs began diverting hares away from the greyhounds. They attacked the saboteurs, who were accompanied by three police officers, on a public right of way that separated the greyhounds from the thirty beater's driving hares.

Saboteurs were hurled into ditches, kicked and punched. Police took some to King's Lynn Hospital for treatment.

Mr Albert Claridge, who was filming the demonstration, will headlining into a ditch when he was pushed by a coursing supporter. His camera equipment was kicked until the lens fell off.

Jeering coursing supporters cleared the footpath so that coursing could be resumed.

Earlier thirty saboteurs had marched on to the coursing field chanting: "What do we want? Ban coursing."

The landowner, Captain Henry Birbeck, ordered them off his land. He said the road was walled so private, but police officers confirmed that it was a public right of way and the saboteurs stayed to demonstrate. They were blowing whistles and waving sheets and white flags when they were met by the coursing supporters.

The leader of the saboteurs, Mr Christopher Williamson, a national executive member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, said the demonstrators had come from Norfolk, Sheffield, Derby and Nottingham.

Unions to review link with Government

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Trade union leaders have begun their self-imposed task of deciding whether there is any future in retaining tripartite links with the Government and employers on industrial policy.

The General Council of the TUC has sent out circulars to more than 100 affiliated unions asking if they feel it is worth while continuing to play a role in the Economic Development Committees (the so-called "little Neddies"), and the 39 sector working parties set up by the Labour government to carry out its industrial strategy.

A TUC-sponsored withdrawal from some or even all of those bodies is a possibility because of trade union disillusionment with Mr Margaret Thatcher's philosophy of returning industrial decision-making to the entrepreneurs.

Replies to the general council circular will be incorporated in a report to the TUC's influential economic committee in June, which will then make recommendations to the annual congress in September.

The unions are being asked to frame their response in the context of a policy paper on the future of the "little Neddies" and the sector working parties put to ministers and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) under the auspices of the National Economic Development Council, but not accepted by either party.

The TUC document proposed that employers and unions should collaborate in joint working parties at company and plant level, using the work of the tripartite bodies as a starting point. The CBI was asked

to "respond favourably" to union requests for time off with pay to set up trade union companywide structures and subsequent discussions with management.

The NEDC was asked to stimulate the work of its lower-level tripartite bodies and start a programme of "special reports" on management tasks, "force" visits by companies to report on the scope for reducing imports.

None of that will now happen, but the unions are being invited to assess the value of the Economic Development Committees and the sector working parties against those criteria. The unions are expected to poll out of joint bodies that do not measure up to the Congress House test.

If the unions do withdraw from the tripartite machinery there will be a corresponding rise in the activity of both official and unofficial companywide trade union organisations, including shop stewards' committees, which are becoming more common in industry.

In its paper on the NEDC, the TUC noted that comprehensive and formal arrangements which combine trade union representatives of all sections of a multiplicity of enterprises are the exception rather than the rule. But short of this, the TUC argued, the only way to ensure that the interests of workers are represented in the decision-making process is through the tripartite bodies, as the British Leyland combine is not.

MP to seek debate on deaths in custody

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The controversy over deaths in police custody of citizens yesterday, with Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham West, saying he is to seek an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on the subject.

He said that an early day motion had attracted 120 signatures. It refers to deaths in police custody as well as "many recently reported cases of serious violence short of death".

Figures of deaths from non-natural causes of citizens while in police custody indicate, the motion says, that the few most publicised cases are not isolated examples but part of a wider and regularly recurring trend.

Mr Meacher denied a Police Federation charge, reported in *The Times* yesterday, that he was engaged in a "sensationalist" campaign. Quoting a figure of 143 deaths from non-natural causes in the last decade, Mr Meacher said the numbers were not kept centrally by either the Home Office or chief constables who find it difficult to obtain them from police stations.

"I am not suggesting for one moment that all of these deaths are the result of police violence. The police do pick up drunks, drug addicts, and meths drinkers, and they may die in their hands," Mr Meacher said.

But he was puzzled about the discrepancy between natural and non-natural deaths. In 10 per cent of total deaths (23 cases out of 245) over the decade there had been no inquest, he said.

Figures he had obtained about cases in Scotland had led him to calculate that on average there had been 21 deaths a year from non-natural causes in England, Wales and Scotland.

"That is a horrifying figure," he said. "But this is not South Africa. I believe it is in the interests of the police themselves that the full facts should be investigated for the sake of their reputation." He wants the Home Secretary to set up an inquiry.

Mr Meacher has obtained a breakdown by force areas over the nine and half years ended June 30, 1979.

Of 245 total deaths in police custody in England and Wales, 102 had been in the Metropolitan Police district, which had a fifth of the population of the country, he said, but double that proportion (two-fifths) of deaths in police custody.

Growing use of troops in industrial disputes 'needs to be reassessed'

By Peter Hennessy

The use of troops in industrial disputes that threaten essential supplies and services has increased dramatically in the 1970s, while legal and parliamentary controls over their involvement have remained inoperative, according to Mr Christopher Whelan, a leading student of the Emergency Powers Acts, writing in the current issue of *The Industrial Law Journal*.

Mr Whelan, research officer in law in the Centre for Social Legal Studies at Wolfson College, Oxford, argues that "the consequences of military intervention on collective bargaining, the implications of a growing military role in the civil sphere of society and the adequacy of legal and parliamentary controls all point to the need for a public reassessment of the use of the military in industrial disputes, and an evaluation of their future role in the economy."

He notes the increasing use of troops by governments to enforce incomes policies, most recently in the firemen's strike of 1977-78.

Since 1945, Mr Whelan calculated, Servicemen have intervened in at least 23 disputes, including seven since 1970. Of 11 states of emergency proclaimed under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, five have occurred in the past 10 years.

He concludes: "The role of the military in industrial disputes is thus becoming increasingly significant. The balance of industrial power: trade

union activities; the interface between the armed forces, the police, the public and the Government; the process of collective bargaining and the impact of incomes policies, particularly in the public sector, are all factors which are affected by military intervention.

Mr Whelan is particularly concerned about a passage in the *Manual of Military Law*, Part II, Section V, on the Employment of Troops in Aid of the Civil Power, which reads: "Even though there is no legal difference between soldiers and other citizens in respect of the duty to respond to the call of the civil authority, there is, in cases of disturbance where the civil authority has not asked for help, a difference in the nature of the military commander's duty to take action laid upon military commanders by Queen's Regulations which is not laid upon other citizens except magistrates and peace officers."

Even though the civil authority should give directions to the troops, if it is really necessary, it is bound to take such action as the circumstances demand.

Mr Whelan writes that such powers have not been used in industrial disputes in recent years, but notes: "There may have been a duty on military commanders to intervene at Salford coke depot in the 1972 miners' strike when 6,000 demonstrators and pickets closed the depot gates despite the police intervention."

The Industrial Law Journal, Volume 8, Number 4, December, 1979. (Sweet and Maxwell Ltd, 100 Brook Street, London, EC4A 3DF. £2.40p.)

Mail strike worst in North and Scotland

Scotland and the north of England were the regions most affected yesterday by a one-day strike by post office workers. Postal deliveries and counter services at main and sub-post offices were disrupted by the official action of some members of the Union of Post Office Workers.

Some union members took the day off, claiming it was part of the Christmas holiday, although the Post Office regarded it as a normal working day.

The South of England escaped the brunt of the action, as the union received "very patchy" support, according to the Post Office.

A union representative said:

"There are influential areas in the country where people have not come to work, like Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh."

The Post Office reported that there were no postal deliveries in Glasgow and 13 of 20 post office counters were closed.

In London the position was exacerbated as no mail was driven from the main stations. It was held up by a separate strike by members of the Central Control Services.

Mr Dennis Roberts, managing director of posts, said that 95 per cent of counters were open and more than 70 per cent of delivery offices were providing a service.

Thousands of post offices 'may close'

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The National Federation of Sub-Postmasters has warned the Government that changes mooted in the method of paying old age pensions and child benefit allowances may close thousands of post offices.

The federation, whose members manage 21,000 sub-post-offices, fears that the Department of Health and Social Security intends to pay pensions

fortnightly instead of weekly and child benefits possibly only monthly. Mr Norman Taylor, the general secretary, estimated yesterday that in some sub-post offices sub-postmasters' remuneration would be cut by a third.

"It could have disastrous consequences on the network on which the social services depend," he said.

The federation says that the ending of regular weekly payments would cause distress and

difficulties to pensioners, and would cost the Government more by increasing applications for supplementary assistance.

The Post Office said yesterday that its estimate was that 3,000 post offices might close if the changes went ahead.

A national service work account for a number of hours of loss at sub-post offices, costing £11m in staff hours. If the suggested economies were made the work would be cut by a fifth and 4,000 jobs might disappear.

Southend service in memory of Sir S. McAdden

By Our Political Staff

A memorial service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Priests' Walk, Southend, Essex, on Monday for Sir Stephen McAdden, who was Conservative MP for Southend, East, for 29 years.

Sir Stephen, who was 72, died in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on Boxing Day. He was taken there after falling down a staircase at Westminster Underground station on December 19.

Young in the last general election was:

Sir S. McAdden (C) 32,412; T. N. Wright (Lab) 11,639; J. Huxell (L) 5,344; P. Twomey (National Front) 576.

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Oil-rig barge stranded after breaking from tug

Continued from page one

A train driver had a lucky escape after his locomotive hit a telegraph pole blown down by a gale at Marston crossing between Burton upon Trent and Uttoxeter. His cab was badly damaged, but he escaped unhurt. The guard suffered shock when the train braked hard. Both men were taken to hospital.

British Rail said that the train was travelling about 60 mph. Normally it would have been crowded but yesterday there were only two passengers.

They were not injured.

A woman was rescued from drowning in the river Ribble near Preston by a policeman.

At several South coast resorts beach huts were smashed. Sussex police advised motorists not to use coastal routes.

In Scotland, the A93 Perth to Braemar road was blocked by snow at the Devil's Elbow, and other roads in the Highlands were covered with snow. The main A82 Glasgow to Fort William road was badly affected near Glencoe.

A 500-ft oil rig support barge went adrift off the Cornish coast yesterday after breaking away from the tug towing it. It later ran aground on the east side of Brief Head near Fowey. The barge was being towed from the Firth of Forth to the Gulf of Mexico.

A fire in the engine room of the tug testing the barge on Christmas Day immobilised its generator. Another tug sent to help it had to send out a distress call of its own. Eight American seamen were lifted off the first tug by helicopter.

Market stalls at Northampton were wrecked by the wind, and at Desborough, Northamptonshire, a wooden garage was lifted out of a garden by the wind and landed on the main road.

£25,000 fire damage

A fire which swept through the sports centre at the Ambassador College, at Brickley Wood, near St Albans, on Boxing Day caused damage estimated at £25,000.

Protest over airline fees

By Our Air Correspondent

The Association of European Airlines, representing 19 international scheduled companies, has written to the British Government protesting at proposed large increases in navigation and airport-handling charges.

In a formal letter to Mr Norman Tabbitt, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, Mr

Armin Battenweiller, the association's president, who is also president of Swissair, said yesterday: "We are faced, particularly at Heathrow, with actual and intended increased charges which by far exceed the highest inflation rates incurred by any country in Europe."

The association said that airport security charges were to go up by 95 per cent.

Local groups prepare to fight expansion of Stansted

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Any hope that the Government had of avoiding a battle with the environmental lobby over its plan to increase capacity at the London airports by expanding Stansted by degrees is rapidly evaporating.

Having had the Christmas period to contemplate the implications of the proposals, which are for Stansted to handle 15 million passengers in the medium term and 30 million in the long term, the environmentalists are preparing to campaign hard.

As a result, the public inquiry into the Stansted plan, due to begin in 1981, is likely to last a record time and to cost the taxpayer a record sum.

The objectors will base their case on three main issues: the loss of 4,000 acres of prime agricultural land needed for the long-term plan, which includes a second runway; the urbanisation of the countryside with 15,000 new houses for airport workers; and the noise that would be caused by an airport likely to grow to twice the size of the present Heathrow.

Objections are beginning to come from two main sources: local councils and private amenity groups. Hertfordshire County Council said the decision to go to Stansted was "the worst of all worlds, and a major environmental disaster".

Stansted would be less expensive to develop in the short

term, but more expensive in the longer term. By not choosing Maplin, on the Essex coast, one of the six short-listed sites, the Government had lost a golden opportunity to invest in the future prosperity of Britain.

Essex County Council described as "completely inconceivable" the Government's statement that no new third London airport would be built, while at the same time announcing that Stansted would expand from less than half a million passengers a year to 15 million, with the possibility of a second runway after 1990.

The council's policy was to oppose growth at Stansted over one million passengers a year.

The Hertfordshire Society,

announcing that it will oppose Stansted, said that the land affected was "the epitome of rural England".

The area had been designated "low growth", and there was little unemployment.

The North-west Essex and East Herts Preservation Association, which has some 80 local organizations affiliated to it, has begun collecting the £100,000 which it estimates it will cost to brief lawyers to represent it at the inquiry.

Mrs Sue Forsyth, the campaign organizer, said yesterday: "We shall be having a big demonstration and meeting next month, but the bulk of the money will come from house-to-house collection, coffee mornings, and the like."

Meanwhile, the Government's decision to authorize a fourth terminal at Heathrow, announced at the same time as protests from environmentalists around the main London airports, has been given a "shor" shrift.

The Government proposed to increase that to 275,000 a year and had said, "with brazen cynicism", that this would be subject to review in the light of progress on the prohibition of noisier aircraft.

Weather forecast and recordings



TODAY		YESTERDAY	
Sun rises: 8.5 am	Sun sets: 3.58 pm	Sun rises: 8.5 am	Sun sets: 3.58 pm
Moon sets: 1.11 am	Moon rises: 1.11 pm	Moon sets: 1.11 am	Moon rises: 1.11 pm
Full moon: January 2	Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.35 am	High water: London Bridge, 8.45 am, 6.40 pm (20.8 ft); 2.30 pm, 6.50 pm (12.5 ft); 10.10 pm (10.7 ft)	Low water: London Bridge, 2.30 am, 1.10 pm (10.7 ft); 11.40 pm (10.7 ft)
<p>London: SE. England, East Anglia: Becoming dry after rain to N and W, but more general rain or snow in SW.</p> <p>Central S. E. central N. and NE England, Midlands, Borders, E. Scotland: S. sun, snow.</p>		<p>London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity: 88 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.16 in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar. mean sea level, 6 pm, 994.9 millibars, falling.</p> <p>1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.</p>	

OVERSEAS

Pol Pot in command despite reshuffle among Khmer Rouge

From Neil Kelly Bangkok, Dec 27

Despite his replacement as Prime Minister, Mr Pol Pot who has been accused of the worst crimes against humanity since Hitler, remains the effective leader of the deposed Khmer Rouge regime in Kampuchea.

"He still has the key jobs of supreme military commander and party leader," a Western diplomat said here.

Broadcasting today from Phnom Penh, the Khmer Rouge radio said President Khieu Samphan, head of state, had become Prime Minister in place of Mr Pol Pot who was named as supreme military commander.

The change is regarded in this region as an inadequate attempt to improve the image of the Pol Pot regime overthrown in January with the help of the Vietnamese. The regime's policy of granting private property rights and religious freedom to individuals is seen as a last ditch attempt by Mr Pol Pot and his colleagues to win support.

A Thai Army spokesman said the government change would not alter the military situation in Kampuchea and anti-communist guerrillas were already collaborating in some border areas.

"Pol Pot's head might produce a change but nothing else," he said.

Colonel Rho Rughien, second-in-command of the Second Infantry Regiment on the border with the Vietnamese Army across the border was too weak to launch an offensive against resistance fighters.

"Each Vietnamese soldier has only two or three rounds of ammunition," he said. "For that and other reasons we expect only limited action by Vietnamese units in border areas."

The spokesman said that 10 other dissidents, most of them former students expelled from university for anti-government activities, were wanted in connection with the rally in Seoul on November 24.

A total of 237 people were held originally but all except the 18 charged were released later with warnings, the spokesman added.

Girls in Peking Peace Cafe mixed too freely

Peking, Dec 27—Peking police have arrested a group of youths who "profited by encouraging girls to hang around with foreigners," the Peking Daily said today.

The newspaper said the youths often frequented the Peace Cafe, one of the few places in the Chinese capital where foreigners and local Chinese can meet freely.

"Since last September, these hoodlums, dressed seductively, often gathered together at the Peace Cafe and other places committing all kinds of outrageous acts," the newspaper said, adding that the youths had harmed China's national honour by the behaviour.

A sign outside the Peace Cafe today said it would be moving tomorrow to alternative premises a few doors from its present site.—Reuters.

Africa church conference appeals for extra funds

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec 27

The All Africa Conference of Churches, which has its headquarters here, is appealing to its member churches for additional funds to overcome financial difficulties.

Mr Kodwo Ankrab, a Ghanaian who is acting general secretary, said overseas donors had been withholding donations to the conference until a leadership crisis and other problems were resolved.

Canon Burgess Carr, the general secretary, left Kenya two years ago after being criticised by Kenyan Government leaders when he compared Kenya to the late President Kennedy to Ethiopia under the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Mr Carr spent a sabbatical year at Harvard University, and

Alliance urged: Mr Pich Cheang, the Khmer Rouge representative in Peking, today urged the United States to join in the anti-Vietnamese struggle in Kampuchea in order to prevent the Soviet Union from controlling the Strait of Malacca.

Mr Pich Cheang said at a press conference attended by Chinese Foreign Ministry officials, that the United States had a role to play alongside all "peace and justice-loving countries and peoples" in supporting the Khmer Rouge against Vietnamese aggression.

Refugee's fate: The EEC Commission expressed concern at the fate of refugees from Kampuchea following reports of impending new military operations along the border with Thailand.

"The misery of men, women and children massed there must not be aggravated by the sufferings, wounds and deaths that such operations would inflict on the innocent civilian victims," it said in a statement.

The Commission would continue to do everything it could to help these populations through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other non-government relief organizations working in the field, it said.

The Commission praised relief workers and denounced any action that could endanger their lives.—Reuters.

The dissidents had defied a stern warning from the Martial Law Command against unlawful assembly and held an anti-government meeting at a YWCA building. They demanded an immediate abolition of the political system set up by the late President Park Chung-hee.

Mr Yun, who was President in 1960, was arrested for his staunch stand against the political system of the late President Park, which Mr Yun called "repressive and dictatorial".

The stand taken by the Martial Law Command reflects an unwillingness of President Choi's Government to make drastic political changes.

President Choi promised to adopt a new constitution and hold a new presidential election but he has not done so for a year to prepare the new constitution. The dissidents argue that a year is too long.—UPI.

Polish shopkeepers fined for under-counter sales

Warsaw, Dec 27—The police, assisted by trade inspectors, have made a country-wide pre-Christmas swoop on black marketeers, and at least 3,000 shopkeepers have been fined for selling sought-after goods under the counter, the newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* said today.

About 1,000 merchants will be put on trial before magistrates courts, which can levy fines of up to 5,000 zlotys.

The newspaper said that one quarter of the 13,000 shops and stalls in 854 markets inspected were found to sell food under the counter and at least 10 per cent of the shops did the same for other goods.

Dishonest distribution of goods, the newspaper went on, actually "enriches" existing shortages and even creates the appearance of complete shortages on the market.

Trade experts said the shortages this Christmas season were the worst in 10 years. Queues in front of butchers' shops stretched for more than 30 yards and some people even started queuing at 1 am to be

the first when the shop opened at 7 am.

Traditional holiday foods such as carp and herring were in very short supply in some jobs, especially in industry, received packets containing 6.6lb of meat as holiday bonuses, so that they would not have to take time off for queuing.

Wyszynski, the Polish Prime Minister, in his Christmas sermon, called the economic shortcomings causing the queuing "humiliating".

He said that under the counter selling is widespread, ranging from shopkeepers holding goods for their friends or good customers to siphoning wanted goods on to the black market.

Ham, for example, was legally priced at 2 zlotys for 2.2lb but reached 40 zlotys at the black market.

In one instance, the pre-Christmas police raids detected 63lb of pork hidden in one shop for "friends". In another shop, *Zycie Warszawy* said, bottles of champagne were kept for the highest bidder.—UPI.

Nato link reaffirmed by Turkish minister

From Sinan Fisek Ankara, Dec 27

"Turkey will pursue its 'multi-faceted' foreign policy, but will not allow itself to be drawn into the relations with the Western world," Mr Hayrettin Erkmen, the new Foreign Minister, said in a policy speech criticized by the Opposition as being too "pro-Western".

He told the Parliamentary budget committee that Turkey had "important political and economic ties with the Western world," which it could not ignore. He reaffirmed Turkey's commitment to Nato, adding, however, that Nato needs Turkey as much as Turkey needs Nato.

"The Government favoured the installation of cruise and Pershing missiles in West Europe as a deterrent, but also supported all efforts aiming at world disarmament and détente. Turkey would take care 'not to adopt a provocative attitude' towards its neighbours in general and the Soviet Union in particular."

The Government would not abide by the Ecevit Government's policy of freeing Turkey's relations with the EEC for five years. It wanted to solve the problems between Turkey and the EEC within the framework of the spirit and the aims of our association with the Common Market, in a manner which will be most beneficial to Turkey's economy and its efforts aimed at development."

There would be no basic policy changes on Cyprus. He believed that the Greek side in Cyprus was preventing a solution of the problem by "digressing from the principles established by the Makarios-Denktaş meeting."

"There are many reasons for Turkey and Greece to be friends," Mr Erkmen went on. "They are neighbours, their defence requirements are the same, and they are members of the same alliance."

He believed that most problems between Turkey and Greece could be solved. The crisis over the Aegean continental shelf resulted from the fact that "the international law established by the Lausanne treaty of 1923 was disrupted," and the question of the Aegean air space arose from Greece's considering it as a sovereign right."

It would be in the interest of both countries to adopt a more understanding attitude. Turkey was sensitive about the arms build-up in the Aegean and the situation of Turkish citizens in western Thrace."

Mr Gunduz Okum, the former Foreign Minister in the Ecevit Government, said he found the policy statement too pro-Western. This was also the view of other opposition spokesmen.

The National Salvation Party, the Islamic fundamentalist group which is supporting the Suleyman Demirel's conservative minority Government, also said that it would "not allow excessive pro-Western feelings to move Turkey away from Iran."

'Internationale' leads to union official's arrest

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Dec 27

One of the country's main union leaders, Mr Kemal Tugluk, was detained under the martial law regulations in Istanbul today.

Mr Tugluk, a former chairman of the left wing labour confederation, Disk, was president of the union Maden-Is, which groups workers in the metal and electrical industries. He was arrested after a demonstration in Istanbul for singing the "Internationale" instead of the Turkish national anthem at one of their meetings.

Mr Tugluk was quoted in newspapers today as having said that "it is an honour to be arrested for singing the 'Internationale'."

He said the face of increasing political tension and violence which resulted in the deaths of more than 2,500 people in two years, the martial law authorities were imposing such demonstrations since military rule was established in 19 of the country's 67 provinces a year ago.

Continued from page 1

A British source said: "We knew it would be a dangerous and difficult operation. The safety of their people is always uppermost in the minds of the Commonwealth force commanders. But this operation is necessary if the Lancaster House agreement is to be fulfilled."

The Royal Air Force men were the first casualties of the 1,300 strong Commonwealth force recently arrived here to monitor the ceasefire and the general election due in the new year.

The Hercules aircraft was also flying low when it was hit by one bullet, apparently going through the centre of the giant white cross—the monitoring force emblem painted on the side.

Patriotic Front commanders going to ceasefire rendezvous points were hit by the aircraft.

The Hercules had just taken off from Golan Reef military air base.

The Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring force set out in strength today from its Salisbury headquarters, taking men and supplies to all parts of the country. Two convoys totalling 24 vehicles and carry-



Where life might exist: Deep rifts crisscross the thick crust of ice around Europa, a moon of Jupiter, where Mr Richard Hoagland, an American scientist, believes that life may have developed.

Mr Hoagland, a consultant of the United States Space Agency, says that on the basis of the data collected by the Voyager spacecraft during fly-bys of Jupiter and its four moons, Europa is the most likely place in the solar

system for extra-terrestrial life to exist. "Only three other objects in the solar system have ever been seriously suggested as abodes of life—Mars, Jupiter and Saturn's moon, Titan," he said. "Spacecraft investigation of all three of these bodies in recent years has cast doubt on life existing on any of them. Europa seems to have what these other worlds do not—an ocean of water, the prime prerequisite for life as we know it," he said.

In an article for *Star and Sky* magazine, Mr Hoagland wrote: "Voyager 2 findings leave little doubt that Europa is covered with a crust of ice perhaps five miles thick that envelops a global ocean possibly 60 miles deep." Not only did this moon appear to have an ocean where life could exist, "it should stand out as one of the most promising places for life to exist," he wrote.

Weizman pressure on US to double aid

From David Cross Washington, Dec 27

Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israeli Defence Minister, was today trying to persuade a reluctant American Administration to meet his country's request for \$3,450m (£1,570m) worth of military and economic aid.

The latest indications are that Washington intends to offer the Israeli's no more than \$2,000m in the budget for the 1981 financial year, which is due to be announced next month. The budget for the current financial year included military and economic aid totalling \$1,875m for Israel.

During his talks here with Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, and Mr Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, Mr Weizman was expected to explain that Israel required extra assistance mainly to pay higher fuel bills. He was pointing out that his country's main source of foreign oil—Iran—is no longer shipping supplies to Israel and that the Sinai oil fields have now been returned to Egyptian ownership.

The aid being requested by the Israeli consists of \$1,800m worth of military equipment and \$1,650m worth of economic assistance. This year's American aid program is made up of some \$1,000m worth of military assistance and \$800m worth of economic help.

While sympathetic to Israel's financial problems, the Administration here is considered highly unlikely to meet the Israeli request in full. Members of the Administration argue that it would be difficult to justify such a huge increase at a time of general economic stringency.

Moreover, Congress, which takes the final decision, would probably balk at authorizing a virtual doubling of this year's aid allocation for Israel.

Mr Weizman was also expected to voice his government's concern at American plans to sell Saudi Arabia millions of dollars worth of new military equipment. He will argue that such a move would further distort the balance of power in the Middle East.

Mr Weizman's trip to Washington was planned at short notice when it became clear that the administration's budget for 1981, which is due to be completed this week, would fall far short of Israeli requirements. The Israeli Cabinet dispatched him to Washington to seek a last-minute change of heart.

Mr Weizman, who is accompanied by Mr Yacov Neeman, the Director General of Israel's Finance Ministry, is expected to remain in the United States until the weekend for further talks with administration officials before returning home.

Rescue hunt for survivors of three shipping accidents

By Our Foreign Staff

International rescue operations were being carried out at opposite ends of the world yesterday, to search for possible survivors of shipping accidents off Canada, Greece and Okinawa, and to refloat a liner aground on the edge of the Antarctic.

A Chilean naval icebreaker rescued 108 passengers and crew from the *Lindblad Explorer* near the Antarctic.

A Soviet tug was to try to save the liner.

In another accident, the *Dingo*, a Panamanian cargo ship, caught fire and sank on Wednesday 450 miles south of Okinawa. Yesterday a passing ship picked up 25 of the 29 crew, but others were believed dead.

Off Western Greece, six people died on Christmas Day when the *Soula G*, a cargo ship,

sank in rain, snow and gale force winds. One seaman is still missing.

United States and Canadian rescuers mounted a search off Canada after the *Lee Wang Zin* overturned on Tuesday. The whole crew of 30 is missing.

Canadian officials said the ship capsized in gale-force wind and heavy seas in the Hecate Strait, between the Queen Charlotte Islands and the coast of British Columbia.

In the Antarctic, 54 of the crew of the *Lindblad Explorer* remained on board after the passengers and some crew were taken off by the icebreaker. The remaining crew are waiting for the Russian tug to arrive. The liner ran aground in the Gerlach Strait about halfway up the Antarctic Peninsula.

If the ship cannot be pulled loose, the icebreaker will take the passengers to Punta Arenas, about 900 miles to the north.

A spokesman for the American owners of the *Lindblad Explorer* said most of the passengers were Japanese. He said there were no injuries.—UPI.

Terror raid on Israel across Jordan border

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Dec 27

In a "blatant" raid from Jordan last night, guerrillas planted a bomb which exploded in a crowded market in the Arab town of Tel Aviv, the military command in Tel Aviv announced today. Footprints of two men led to and from the scene to the Jordan border, it said.

A military source here stated that an increasing number of Syrian-based guerrillas had been induced to refrain from terrorist attacks from south Lebanon, lest they provoke Israeli retaliation against Syria and Lebanon. Accordingly they increased their attacks by way of Jordan and were trying to raid Israeli territory from the sea and to attack Israeli targets overseas.

All the incursions from Jordan in the past four years were in the occupied West Bank. Last night's raid was the first against Israel proper since October 1975, according to the military spokesman.

In a farewell interview with Israel radio today before his departure, Mr Begin said the raid was a "warning" to the United Nations Peace Keeping

Forces in the Middle East. General Ezer Weizman, of the Israel Defence Ministry, was asked whether he suspected that Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, and the UN had agreed secretly to allow the BLQ to operate in southern Lebanon. The general replied: "No comment."

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, dismissed conditions on the northern and southern fronts when he asked an Israeli "soldier" in the West Bank today. He said the greatest threat to Israel came from that direction. "It is something with which we must deal," he said.

Cairo comment: An Egyptian spokesman today condemned the raid as a violation of the 1978 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. He said the greatest threat to Israel came from that direction. "It is something with which we must deal," he said.

The Egyptian-Israeli differences are expected to top the agenda of a summit conference between Mr Begin and President Sadat of Egypt, scheduled for January 7 in Aswan.—UPI.

40 feared dead after cyclones sweep Mauritius

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 27

Police reported today that it was a relatively quiet festive season in Soweto, the home of more than a million blacks near Johannesburg. There were 29 murders.

By Soweto standards the Christmas holiday was indeed quiet, compared with the normal crime rate. Heavy rain in the area in the past few days has clearly helped to curb it.

Brigadier Carol Coetzee, head of the CID in Soweto, said there had been 15 murders on Saturday and Sunday. The remainder had been committed since then.

Coloureds on 'white' beach are fined £11

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 27

A coloured (mixed race) man and his girlfriend were fined 20 rands (£11) today for being on the "whites-only" Sunset Beach at Kalk Bay, near Cape Town. They were arrested on Boxing Day by the police.

Mr Rupert Egan, a provincial councillor, said later: "This action does a lot of harm particularly as the Prime Minister is trying to ease race relations."

Mr Hony had seen people simply walking across the "whites-only" beach to reach the "blacks-only" beach beyond it, and being stopped by the police.

Yeti reports surprise mountaineer

From Our Correspondent Toronto, Dec 27

A Canadian mountaineer who has recently returned from the Himalayas said yesterday that he was surprised at recent reports giving credence to the existence of the yeti.

Members of a British expedition said in London on Sunday that they had seen and photographed large footprints on the slope of a valley in Nepal.

Mr Don Hamilton, leader of an Ontario expedition to the Himalayas, said: "They (the British) climbed Mount Mera a couple of days after we did. They visited us at our camp. We and our men mentioned the Abominable Snowman."

Russians tempted by fir tree poachers

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Dec 27

With only four chopping days to go until the New Year, Soviet tree poachers are hoping to make a fast profit from Russians willing to pay last-minute exorbitant prices for a fresh green fir.

But this year the amateur arsemen, whose depredations of the forests surrounding the big towns are annually estimated at millions of roubles, face a stiff fine and up to a year's imprisonment if caught by the "green guards" out in force along all the main roads.

For New Year, the secular Soviet feast that has taken on the commercial trappings of the Western Christmas, every Russian family would like a yolk, the traditional Christmas tree.

Government markets are set up in Moscow's side-streets where trees are brought in from special plantations, and the city's underground is nowadays a prickly place to travel as thousands of citizens hurry home with their cumbersome bundles.

Nearly 700,000 firs will be on sale in the capital this year, ranging from skinny 5ft seedlings to big bushy specimens often still covered in snow. But for a city of eight million people there is never enough of them. And for those frustrated shoppers who have queued for hours in the snow only to find the supply has run out just as their turn comes, there is usually a surreptitious offer of a fresh fir that has fallen off the back of a lorry.

A few days ago a local Moscow newspaper printed a large advertisement placed by the Soviet Nature Protection Society warning people not to cut down private individuals' Christmas trees. The advertisement said: "Forests are the duty of every person." The advertisement said: "Forests are the duty of every person." The advertisement said: "Forests are the duty of every person."

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Dramatist revels in the mud and wins without histrionics

Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Small fields are inevitable when the weather is so much as it has been recently and the case at Kempton today, with the exception of the Challow Hurdle, was a good one. The rain was a good thing for the mud but a bad one for the horses. I just prefer Celtic Isle who at least has some chance of winning.

Those who know their form will not be surprised that Celtic Isle finished Queen's Music at Sandown on the 11th but that he was not a true racehorse because Celtic Isle was seen to be a true racehorse and well as good enough to beat Queen's Music this time.

It is interesting to see that Celtic Isle is a Lanarkshire, who will be his first race under the new rules. Lanarkshire was a good horse and won five races at Nottingham, said Yarnmouth, Brighton and down. He was trained there by a Dunlop. Now he is trained by Lavina Duchess of Norfolk's daughter, Lady Herries, and he takes to hurdling he will do a tough nut to crack in this country.

Ramsbury Hurdle has all makings of a fascinating match over the winter. Celtic Isle and Queen's Music are the main contenders. Celtic Isle is a Lanarkshire, who won a handicap at Cheltenham earlier in the year. Celtic Isle is a Lanarkshire, who won a handicap at Cheltenham earlier in the year.

course and distance the day before. On paper Major Swallow struck with Random Leg that day and wonder whether even Major Swallow will manage to concede him 5lb.

Tarbank, who won at Warwick last week, is my selection for the Ebor Novices Steeplechase. After Tarbank had given Bill Smith a heavy fall at home at the beginning of this month, he was sent to the stables for 10 days to be re-educated by his new trainer, Captain Charles Radcliffe. That was a good idea, for Tarbank is a great National Hunt horse, who has won the Ebor Novices Steeplechase at Sandown last season. Tarbank is a great National Hunt horse, who has won the Ebor Novices Steeplechase at Sandown last season.

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Instead of running him much nearer home at Wetherby, he was sent to the stables for 10 days to be re-educated by his new trainer, Captain Charles Radcliffe. That was a good idea, for Tarbank is a great National Hunt horse, who has won the Ebor Novices Steeplechase at Sandown last season. Tarbank is a great National Hunt horse, who has won the Ebor Novices Steeplechase at Sandown last season.

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field where, in Balding's opinion, he lay far too far out of his ground on the same horse when they were beaten in an identical race by Broadless.

Taunton off

Wind and rain caused the abandonment of yesterday's Taunton meeting. The clerk of the course, Bill Sykes, said that the rain was so heavy that the ground was too soft for the horses to run on. The rain was so heavy that the ground was too soft for the horses to run on.

Fontwell on

Fontwell's card today got the go-ahead yesterday afternoon at 3.30 pm. The clerk of the course, Bill Sykes, said that the rain was so heavy that the ground was too soft for the horses to run on. The rain was so heavy that the ground was too soft for the horses to run on.

Relief for Davies

X-rays have revealed that Roy Davies, injured in a fall from the horse in the Worcester Handicap, has not a broken collarbone as at first feared. Davies is now recovering well and will run in the Worcester Handicap on Monday.

Vascar revels in Wetherby mud to give Easterby another fillip

By Michael Seely

It was a day of mud and rain at Wetherby yesterday, but it was a day of triumph for Vascar. Vascar, trained by Peter Easterby, won the Worcester Handicap by a comfortable margin. Vascar, trained by Peter Easterby, won the Worcester Handicap by a comfortable margin.

Everyone has been so excited by the success of Vascar, that it was not until yesterday morning that it was noticed that the horse was a gelding. Vascar, trained by Peter Easterby, won the Worcester Handicap by a comfortable margin.

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Owl, who has been suffering from a virus infection, but is now all right and will shortly be seen out over fences.

O'Neill made his second win of the season when he won the Worcester Handicap. O'Neill made his second win of the season when he won the Worcester Handicap.

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Novices Steeplechase. Reldis was the unlikeliest winner of the season at Wetherby. Reldis was the unlikeliest winner of the season at Wetherby.

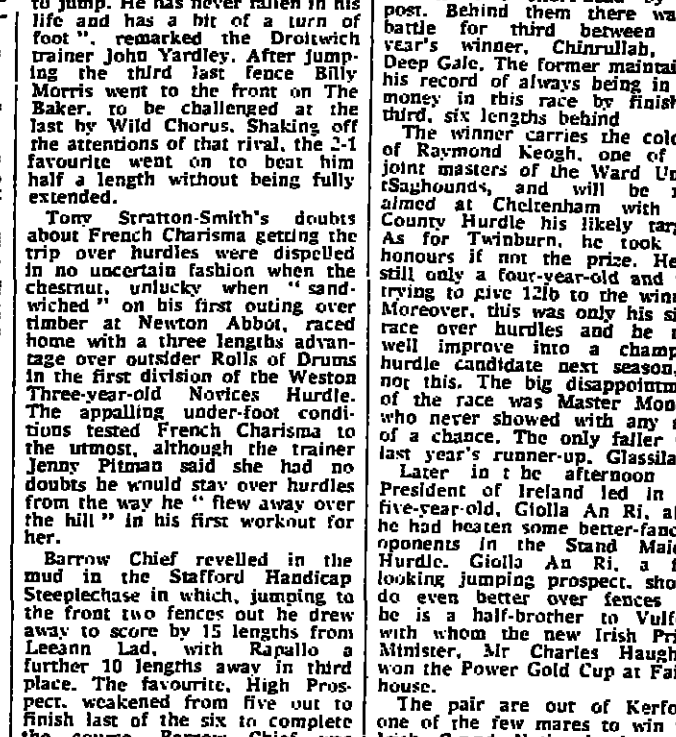
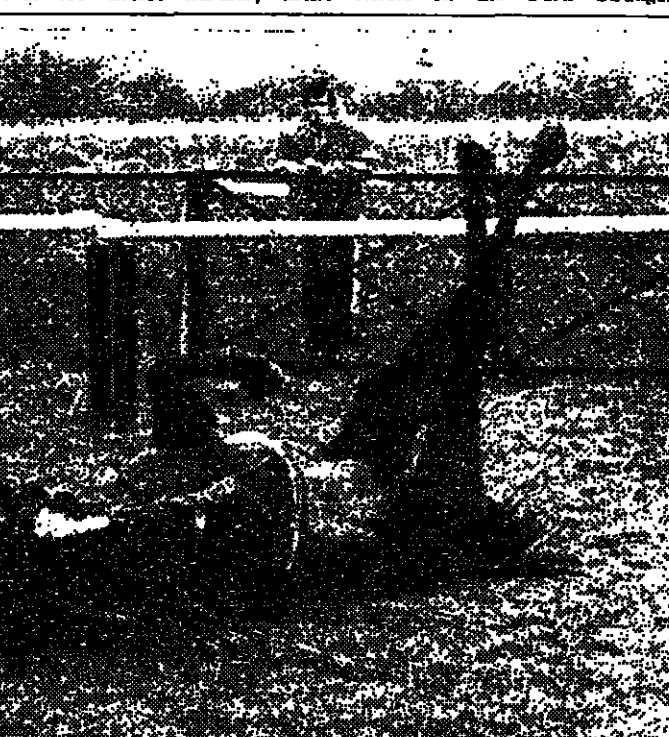
With Drusus an absentee, along with numerous intended runners, the Worcester Handicap was a race of the heavy going. The Worcester Handicap was a race of the heavy going.

Lady Luck takes a hand in Irish Hurdle

From an Irish Racing Correspondent

Irish racing was a major surprise in the Irish Steeplechase Hurdle at Leopardstown today. Irish racing was a major surprise in the Irish Steeplechase Hurdle at Leopardstown today.

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Hidden Fruit and the fall of man. The last fence at Kempton Park proves a bitter double for Smith Eccles. Twice he tumbled there yesterday. Here he breaks a collarbone.

Wbury programme

ELCOT PARK CHASE (Novices: £1,366: 3m)	
04-1327	Flying Barkham, 11. Gifford, 7.11-5
0231-1	Tarleton, 7. Walsby, 6.1-5
000	Charm, 6.11-5
000	Brave Charlie, 6.11-5
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THE TIMES

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Japan heads for first trade deficit in years as growth slumps

From Peter Hazelhurst.

Tokyo, Dec 27
Japan's spectacular post-war rate of economic growth is expected to dwindle to less than 4 per cent next year, the lowest level in two decades of rapid industrialization, economists claimed today.

The country is expected to suffer a trade and current account deficit this year for the first time in 16 years and the trend will continue to hamper the economy during the coming year.

The Federation of Japanese Economic Organizations (Keizai-dan) said the government was unlikely to reach its target of 4.8 per cent growth.

Mr Toshiro Doko, president of Keidanren, said that rising oil prices would have an adverse impact on the economy and at best Japan could expect only 4 per cent growth next year.

"Japan might not even attain a 4 per cent growth rate if the price of oil is raised again during the next fiscal year", he said.

The Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI) paints a gloomier picture claiming that the economy will grow at only 3.5 per cent in real terms. MRI says that the combined growth rate of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, West Germany, France and Italy is expected to decline to minus 0.5 per cent and that the volume of world imports will expand a mere 2 per cent in 1980.

Japan's exports will be re-

duced by a depreciation in the value of the yen. Decker oil is likely to push up the cost of imports to \$118,000m (£52,670m) this year, a 10.5 per cent rise over last year's level.

As a result, Japan is expected to have a \$2,300 trade deficit at the end of this fiscal year.

"The current account balance is expected to mark a deficit of \$13,800m", MRI says.

It adds that with rising oil prices, "there will be little hope of a rapid return to a surplus in our balance of payments".

"Exports are expected to retain their momentum in fiscal 1980 with a 6.4 per cent increase in volume and a 5.3 rise in prices. This will result in a customs clearance value of \$117,600m, a 12 per cent increase over the level in fiscal 1979."

MRI predicts that the total value of imports will soar to a record \$136,500m.

As a result Japan's trade account is likely to be \$5,500m in deficit next year.

Notwithstanding a stable improvement in our balance of trade, the current account deficit is expected to reach \$14,500m. Hence, the Japanese economy will be faced with a return to constraints on the balance of payments which have become virtually non-existent throughout the 1970s, the MRI report adds.

Reinforcing these projections, the Yamaichi Research Institute, estimates the economy will expand by only 3.8 per cent next year.

BL seals pact for Japanese to produce first car in Britain

From Our Correspondent

Tokyo, Dec 27
BL and Honda today ratified an agreement under which a Japanese car will be produced in the United Kingdom for the first time.

Terms of the agreement, signed by Sir Michael Edwards and Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, president of Honda, stipulates that BL will produce and sell the car under a Japanese licence.

Wearing a small Japanese flag at the ceremony in Tokyo Sir Michael described the agreement as critical to future employment at the British Leyland plants at Oxford. In addition it would help to ease strains in trade between Britain and Japan.

He said: "A fully built-up motor car exported to a country with unemployment means that that country is then importing unemployment. If you do a technological deal where your car is built in another country, then that

country obtains a fair amount of employment in addition to the employment you have put in your own country. So that is a fairer solution to the problem."

Sir Michael went on to emphasize that BL would continue to design and manufacture its own range of vehicles. BL had approached Honda for assistance "because it is a slim, streamlined company with many strengths where British Leyland has weaknesses", he added.

Under the agreement BL has been given the exclusive rights to produce and market the car in the nine EEC countries. Honda will produce the same model in Japan and market it under a different trade name in areas outside the EEC.

BL will purchase plant from Honda and the Japanese manufacturer will provide components such as engines and transmission during the initial stage of production.

Assisted areas angry at choice of INMOS site

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Britain's first factory for the production of standard micro-circuits is to be set up at Bristol—subject to the Government approving a second £25m tranche.

But the choice of site announced by INMOS, the semi-conducting company backed by the National Enterprise Board, was condemned by local authorities in the north east last night as a betrayal.

The company expects to be employing about 1,000 workers at its Bristol plant by 1983. By the end of 1984 it plans jobs for a further 3,000, many of whom will be at a much larger unit in one of Britain's assisted areas.

It had been widely expected that the first factory would be

located in an assisted area, with the north east and south Wales the leading contenders.

Councillor Michael Campbell, leader of the Tyne and Wear County Council, last night described the decision as "nothing less than a severe kick in the teeth, not only for Tyne and Wear but also for every assisted area in the United Kingdom."

"There will be a tremendous outcry from all local authorities and trades unions in the north east at this betrayal by the INMOS directors, which appears to flout all authority". Tyne and Wear had offered a £100,000 financial package to INMOS to locate its first facility at Washington New Town but yesterday Mr Ian Barron, executive director of the company, said that the Bristol decision had been taken

after detailed study and careful evaluation of 230 locations.

INMOS began operations 18 months ago with financial backing of £25m from the NEB. The company has established a technology centre at Bristol and a development centre at Colorado Springs in America.

The production unit will start operations in 1983 and will be combined with the technology centre.

The NEB directors met last week and approved the site and the second £25m for INMOS. A recommendation for approval will be submitted soon to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, who has consistently emphasized the important catalytic role he sees for the NEB in new technology.

Announcement of the factory location is seen as an attempt

by INMOS to secure early ministerial consent.

So far INMOS has drawn £3m of the original £25m advanced by the NEB; the projected Bristol expansion and other build-up of resources will account for a further £24m. Yesterday Mr Barron indicated that a decision on the planned larger second factory would not be taken for at least two years. He explained that funding beyond the £25m already allocated by the NEB was not expected because the company thought it would be able to generate sufficient cash for further investment from sales.

Arrival venture between GEC and Fairchild, an American company, is due to start trial production from plant in Colorado Springs and at the United Kingdom technology centre.

chairman of GEC-Fairchild as a board member of the NEB.

Mr Barron expected that the board and Mr Clayton would behave with "proper propriety" in their dealings with INMOS and stressed that the GEC-Fairchild venture was not considered by INMOS as a direct competitor.

At present the NEB holds a 70 per cent stake in INMOS and employees hold the balance. But in line with the Government's desire to see the NEB disposing of its shareholdings, INMOS expects to secure private investment within a few years.

The Bristol factory will be responsible for the manufacture of memories and micro-processors developed in Colorado Springs and at the United Kingdom technology centre.

National Airlines go to Pan Am in takeover worth \$395m

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Dec 27

President Carter has approved one of the largest mergers in aviation history—a \$395m (about £176m) takeover by Pan American World Airways of National Airlines. The merger is expected to become effective on Monday.

Pan Am will now rank second only to United Airlines as the largest commercial airline company in the United States and for the first time, it will have a substantial domestic route network to strengthen its formidable international system. The takeover of National is bound to make Pan Am a bigger competitor for America's other leading international carrier, Trans World Airlines, which already has a domestic system.

Pan Am will take over all of

National's domestic routes, but it will not definitely win National's London to Miami shuttle. The Civil Aeronautics Board will hold hearings to determine whether it should now be given to another company.

Pan Am first made an offer for National more than 16 months ago, but both Eastern Airlines and Texas International Airlines also made offers and a fierce stock market struggle developed. The Civil Aeronautics Board imposed limits on the amount of National shares each of the competitors could buy. It then started a lengthy investigation into the various merger alternatives.

Texas International eventually withdrew its offer,

London gold price soars to \$511

By David Blake

Economic Editor

Renewed worries about the world economy sent the price of gold soaring to a new record price of \$511 dollars in London yesterday. The gold market closed in the early afternoon in London, but the price rose sharply throughout the day as worries about oil prices and the political situation in Afghanistan sent the dollar tumbling everywhere in Europe.

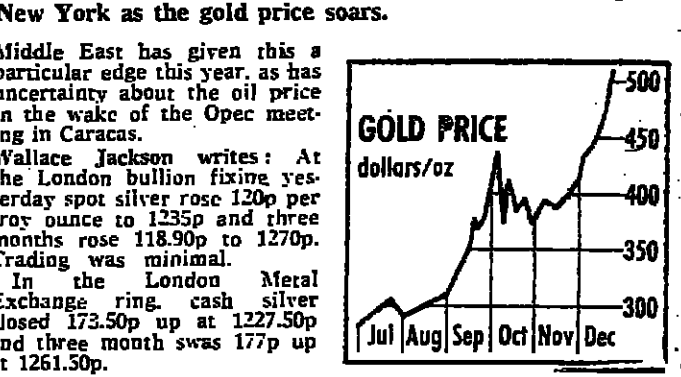
At the close of business, sterling had risen by more than three cents to close at \$2.24. The pound's effective exchange rate rose to 70.5 per cent of its December 1971 value, up 0.7 percentage points on its close at Christmas eve.

The market everywhere was nervous, with many dealers closing early and the volume of business thin. But there was strong pressure against the United States currency everywhere, which was met by some intervention by central banks, including the Bank of England and the German Federal Bank.

Foreign exchange and bullion markets tend to be nervous between Christmas and the new year, but the political uncertainty surrounding the United States involvement in the



Excitement on the floor of the Commodities Exchange in New York as the gold price soars.



Gas prices showing 20 pc rise

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Gas prices on new and renewed contracts to large industrial customers were increased by 19 per cent in the third quarter of 1979, according to the December issue of *Energy Trends*.

This increase, and the rise in tariff prices to smaller industrial users of 21 per cent from September 1, gives a strong indication of the British Gas Corporation increase which domestic consumers face from April 1.

Domestic gas prices were held down by the Government after the corporation was given reduced cash limits with the brunt of the rises being born by the industrial sector. Industrial gas users' representatives have complained that it is inequitable for the largest users to pay the highest prices.

Of the estimated 1979 supply from British Gas, 43 per cent is expected to be used by contract customers receiving more than 100,000 therms a year.

As contracts are renewed, more and more of these customers will be charged higher prices. The British Gas Secretary of State for Energy, is to reduce the number of industrial customers able to buy on preferential tariff rates by reducing the number of qualifying therms a year from 100,000 to 25,000 therms a year. Demand for new installations has outstripped the corporation's ability to connect and there have been worries that the switch away from other energy sources, as a result of uncertainty over oil supply and pricing, was too fast.

MEBs profit hopes

Middle East Building Service hopes to turn in a small profit at the end of the next financial year. The National Enterprise Board has a stake of almost 30 per cent in the consultancy, which was set up to help United Kingdom building material producers in the Saudi Arabian construction market.

Leyland leads sales of British-built cars but Ford heads market league table

By Edward Townsend

Ford's European policy of spreading car assembly operations across at least five countries has paid off again, with the company leading the United Kingdom car sales league for 1979. BL, however, has managed to sell more home-produced models in Britain than any other manufacturer.

In a year when total sales will reach a record 1.7 million, BL has sold 318,676 British-built cars against Ford's 247,342.

Of Ford's total British sales, which stood at 464,831 by the end of November, half were models built in Belgium, Germany, Spain and the Irish Republic.

Vauxhall's share was 94,448 and Chrysler's 82,460. BL's 20-year-old Mini, with 1979 sales at an estimated

\$2,447, has easily outsold French-built Citroen and Peugeot imports, German VWs and Audi, Italian Fiats and Japanese Coits, Honda, Mazda and Toyota ranges.

BL also stays on top of the executive car league with 1979 combined sales of 60,747 for the Rover and Princess and with Jaguar and Daimler dominating the luxury market.

Against this background, talks will be resumed in Tokyo next month between officials of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers' Association for Japan to continue so-called voluntary restraint on car exports to the United Kingdom throughout 1980.

The Japanese Government has closely monitored car exports,

with the result that Japan's share of the United Kingdom market was held at 11 per cent in 1978 and this year will fall to about 10.6 per cent. But Japanese car manufacturers claim that the reason for restraint was to allow the British industry to rebuild and after two years of holding back sales, there is no sign of this happening.

Mr John Beswick, director of the SMMT, said yesterday that all the problems facing the British industry arose from lack of productivity.

"We reckon we could knock 14 per cent off the import penetration figures if British factories hit their production targets. But the further our share slips, the longer it will take us to pull back. Every day lost takes two to make up."

Tactical finesse in dispute with £1,000m unit trust How taxman forced M & G's hand

M & G's foreign life assurance fund, the centre of the unit trust group's dispute with the Inland Revenue, had been a source of dissension within the company long before it almost brought M & G to the brink of bankruptcy last week.

Factions within the £1,000m unit trust group, the oldest and second largest in the country, had believed for a long time that the overseas reinsurance business, tinged with overtones of tax avoidance, was inappropriate for a company of M & G's stature within the industry.

These activities of the M & G Endowment and Pensions Assurance Company had been discussed at board level.

Mr David Hopkinson, who has taken over as managing director of the unit trust group, said yesterday that although the foreign life fund had legitimate, tax-exempt business, there were suspicions that not all clients of overseas companies using the reinsurance arrangements were resident outside the country.

Attempts to squash the overseas reinsurance business reached their peak after the June Budget when the tax cut for wealthy investors was greatly improved.

In the event, it was the Inland Revenue, with a display of tactical finesse, which finally brought matters to a head. Instead of approaching M & G about its suspicious that the foreign life fund was being used illegally, it forced the company to put its own house in order.

Earlier this year it began withholding tax relief owing on £45m of personal pension business managed by Endowment

and Pensions. When asked why, the Revenue's argument was that the money was in lieu of tax which the Revenue felt was owed in respect of the foreign life fund.

So as not to penalise personal pension policyholders, £500,000 had to be pumped immediately into the pension fund and to prevent this becoming a continuous financial drain M & G had no option but to open discussions with the Revenue about the tax affairs of the foreign life fund.

On the assumption that the foreign life fund can no longer be classed as a gross, or tax-exempt fund, back tax owing totals £1m to £1.5m. Total liabilities, if all the policies which underlie the reinsurance contracts run their full length, could amount to £7m.

Margaret Stone

PRICE CHANGES

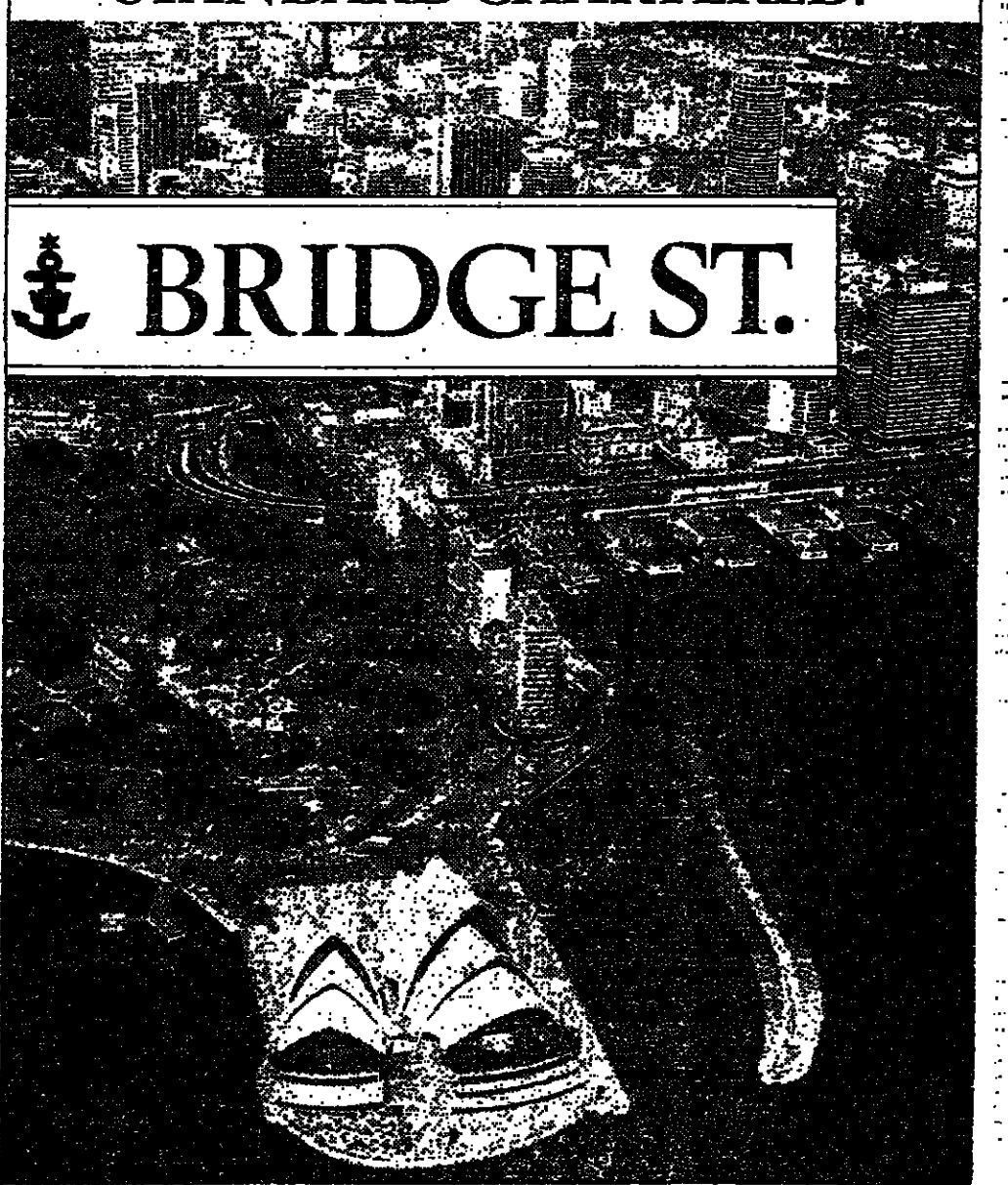
30c to 305c	Ventropost	72c to 925c
54 to 525	Welkom	73c to 928c
35c to 590c	Western Areas	73c to 928c
35c to 590c	Western Deep	531 to 5351
40c to 390c	W. Rand Cons	45c to 525c
3p to 124p	Taylor, Woodrow	5p to 323p
3p to 124p	Trafalgar	5p to 53p
5p to 234p	Whessoe	5p to 64p
7p to 243p	Whessoe Watson	5p to 15p
4p to 52p	Zambian Copper	3p to 33p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buy	sell	buy	sell
2.90	1.97	Norway Kr	11.45
29.15	27.15	Portugal Esc	113.50
67.15	63.75	South Africa Rd	12.77
11.30	11.25	Spain Ptas	162.00
11.30	11.25	Sweden Kr	5.53
2.52	2.52	Switzerland Fr	3.71
9.28	9.28	USA \$	2.27
92.80	93.00	Yugoslavia Dnr	50.50
11.30	10.70		
1845.00	1750.00		
553.00	528.00		
4.41	4.18		

Bank rates for sterling denominated bank deposits only, on a 30-day period, subject to change without notice. Bank of England rates for sterling denominated bank deposits only, on a 30-day period, subject to change without notice.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Merchant banks prepare for a decade of change

The news that Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is finally planning to acquire the rest of Antony Gibbs is a fitting conclusion to a year when there has been an unusually high degree of activity in merchant banking.

Takeover rumours have continued to keep interest alive in some of the smaller banks like Brown Shipley and more especially Rea Brothers, whose stakes in a number of Scottish investment trusts in general and Furness Withy in particular make it a potentially rich prize when the chairman Mr Walter Salomon retires.

Dawnay Day, which has only just stopped bleeding from the secondary banking crisis, actually found itself on the wrong end of a bid from Rothschild Investment Trust, though the chief attraction here was the unit trust and insurance interests rather than its meagre banking side.

Others like Robert Fleming, which is even now having to accommodate itself to the new Banking Act by seeking authorized status, have begun to seek out fresh pastures in international fund management, which many merchant bankers see as one of the more attractive growth points in the 1980s, while Kleinwort Benson has gone one

Outside of banking, pension fund and other investment management business provides the sort of stable income investors like and with gold and silver reaching new highs daily amid hectic trading their bullion dealing subsidiaries are going to do very well indeed.

Longer-term, however, the merchant banks are still going to have to carve out new areas of business since the existing level of activity is unlikely to be able to support the number of banks operating now. Some will fall by the wayside or be taken over—Gibbs for example has found it hard going to find a new role over the last few years with the move into personal financial planning a good example of how not to diversify—but there is a chance that the top tier, especially with the easing of exchange controls, could grow to rival their United States counterparts.

● **Highland Distilleries' shares stand 15p above the 130p bid from Hiram Walker, the Canadian distiller. So the stock market—and one suspects Hiram—is satisfied that the offer will have to be increased if it is to succeed. But Hiram is determined to deliver some body punches to soften up Highland's defence which is almost bound to be based on asset value and the potential of Highland's leading scotch brand, Famous Grouse.**

Hiram accepts that Highland's assets are undervalued, but nevertheless points out that its offer is worth 2½ times Highland's book value. Revolution of assets could produce a value of 113p a share, according to Edinburgh brokers, Bell, Laurie, MacGregor. That would still leave a fair premium in Hiram's present terms.

But the key—and Hiram recognizes the point—is the incestuous relationship between Highland and Robertson & Baxter, one of Scotland's largest private companies, which is in turn controlled by the Robertson family. Highland treats its 35.4 per cent stake in R & B as an investment, simply taking dividends and not consolidating on the view that it is unable to exercise sufficient control over R & B policy.

But valuation of the R & B stake, in Highland's books at only £0.2m, is going to be crucial. On a net asset basis it could be worth £12m to Highland, enough together with a rather less conservative revaluation of stocks and distilleries, to put Hiram's present offer out of court on asset grounds. This, then, is the soft underbelly of Highland's defence. It may have to argue that an investment which it has always kept very much at arm's length, is now so valuable as to make Hiram's offer terms hopelessly underpriced. Shareholders should stand back and watch events unfold.

Base metals Little room for speculators

Strong precious metal prices often encourage speculative interest in base metals. So with gold, silver and platinum all at record levels, and looking set to go up further, it would not be surprising if speculators moved into base metals.

Speculative pressure on base metal prices is, rarely more than temporary. It does not imply a general hardening next year of copper, lead and nickel prices. The danger though is this will mistakenly be interpreted as heralding the long-awaited revival in base metals.

New York speculation in base metals has been fuelled by inflation, a disappointing year for copper, and the need by stockbrokers, who are not subject to the same demarcation rules over trading as in the United Kingdom, to maintain profits after the abolition of fixed commissions.

The fact, however, is that industrial demand for copper is likely to be weak for most of 1980. Nickel could offer speculative interest because high energy costs will deter refiners from adding to capacity. Aluminium benefits from the same caution, combined with its increasing use in cars to save energy. Lead supplies have tended to lag behind demand.

This is all quite normal, and reflects the ebb and flow of markets. Each of these metals offers a short-term speculative opportunity, but unless real industrial demand is unexpectedly sustained next year, it is improbable that prices will move up into a generally higher trading range.

● The course of true love cannot be expected to run smooth, and, once again, our annual calculation of the true lover's Christmas as described in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, has proved an unpredictable economic indicator.

This year's total, which Business Diary spent most of yesterday calculating, comes to £4,394—substantially less than in 1976 or 1974 and only 15.55 per cent up since the index was last published in 1977.

The indicator's unpredictability may have something to do with the unrepresentative shopping sample chosen by a true lover who insists on sending 184 birds over 12 days—but has to do also with the way such figures are prepared.

For instance, our nurserymen have reclassified four-foot pear trees. They now call them bushes. The decision to stick with trees, not bushes, cost us an extra £42. If our true lover nailed an over-ready corpse in the branches, instead of sending a daily live partridge, the saving would be £51.

London Zoo, which used to quote for some of the livestock, now declines, saying that it has not bought or sold for 15 years. This casts doubt on the validity of earlier estimates. Worse, Palmer's pet shop, to whom it referred us for turtle doves,

Can Mrs Thatcher achieve her goal of reducing Britain's contribution to the EEC, from the level of £1,700m to zero?

The tables on this page, illustrating how funds flow into and out of the European Community, show just what a hard task the Prime Minister has in trying to cut back Britain's net contribution to the Community budget.

If we take as a rough measure of equity in taxation, the ability to pay as measured by wealth (or at least income) then the United Kingdom both pays too much into the Community and gets too little out. The reason for both of these disadvantages are buried deep in the structure of Community rules.

Take the tax side of the equation first. The rules for raising the Community's revenue were rushed through in 1970 just before serious negotiations on British membership of the Community began.

A system for paying for Community spending, above all agriculture, was one of the prices which the French Government extracted in return for allowing the talks on enlargement to begin at all. A consequence of this was that rules for raising money were fitted to the interests of the original six members of the EEC—France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Community money, from 1980 onwards, will come from three sources. These are levies on imports of food covered by the common agricultural policy, tariffs on industrial goods and a share of the value added tax which is levied on all goods.

As the large table shows, contrary to common belief, our trade in industrial goods does much more to increase the amount we pay into the Community budget than does our import of food. There has been a definite switch in the sources

from which we buy our food supplies, with other EEC countries gaining at the expense of countries in the rest of the world.

Such switching costs down our contribution to the EEC budget, because we do not pay levies on food imports. It does not, however, reduce the cost to us of the EEC policy of dear food. It just means that instead of paying levies which are used to buy up expensive food for storage, British consumers have to pay high prices direct to farmers in Community countries.

So any examination of the costs of EEC policies which looks solely at budgetary payments will tend to underestimate the cost to Britain quite substantially.

But even if we do restrict ourselves in this way we find that, on EEC Commission estimates, the only country whose gross contribution—that is, the amount of money going into the Community coffers—is significantly higher than would be expected, on the basis of its gross national product, is Britain. In 1980, on the basis of early drafts for the Community budget, we were expected to pay 20.49 per cent of the total cost compared to a grand which was 16.04 per cent of the Community total.

It is the very large quantity of customs duties which we pay over to the EEC which is responsible for this. Our extraordinary tendency to import

manufactured goods in the past few years is a prime source of our EEC finance problem as of so much else.

Can anything be done to end our British contribution to Community funds? There is, in fact, a means already in existence for doing this, negotiated by the Labour Government. This gives a refund to any country which finds itself paying more than its fair share of the budget.

Unfortunately, the terms of this scheme, set up in Dublin in 1975, are so restrictive as to mean that the likely gains to Britain from this "financial mechanism" as it is called, are negligible to be small or non-existent.

One of the proposals which the Commission has put forward for helping the United Kingdom is that some of the more onerous conditions should be relaxed, so that we would be fairly sure of getting back between £300m and £400m.

But it is clear that in its present form this financial mechanism, the level of the crown of the last Labour Government's renegotiation, offers no substantial help to the United Kingdom.

It is, however, difficult to see much being done in the immediate future which would fundamentally alter the pattern of payments into the Community budget, even though the removal of restrictions proposed by the Commission would be a help.

Dr Chris Wilson, managing director of ICL, is overcoming computer incompatibility in one aim.

potential users of computing equipment view the available choice of hardware. Many of the emerging micro-products are for brand-new uses, but many are claimed to handle the "traditional" areas of business data-processing.

A recent Urwick Dynamics survey published in *Computing magazine* confirmed that companies are moving towards smaller machines.

Even before the emergence of the micro, there was evidence that the business community had become disenchanted with computing and its practitioners. Manufacturers pursued innovation while business sought continuity; programmers seemed more interested in the science of computing than

in the objectives of their business. The recent proliferation of micro-based "small business systems" has made things still worse for the user. They may give, or appear to give, independence and economy, but the economy may be outweighed by the costs of software support.

Dr Chris Wilson, managing director of ICL, noted recently: "We are living in a world in which the typical user-organization's management is being besieged on all sides by enthusiasts with schemes for introducing mini or micro-computer projects in every area of the business."

"There is now hardly any flow of information in a business which is not a conceivable candidate for automatic processing, whether it be sense data for a robot, an automatic measurement or one of the usual forms of computer data."

Successful implementation of projects, Dr Wilson argues, will depend only on a detailed knowledge of the particular business but also on familiarity with the hardware and software modules which are available as "bricks" from which to build computer systems.

Speaking at a European conference of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), Dr Wilson said: "Such building bricks may be available, but the business community is not yet convinced that they will be taken in."

The worst problem arises when the panic ends and dealers try to offer cars for sale at up to 20 per cent more than their recently advertised discounted prices.

In some instances, all this could cause downgrading of a car's image.

The Rover 3500 autumn sales campaign mounted by BL for example, was based on an offer of a smoked salmon to selected motorists who went for a test drive. Some dealers went much further and added large price cuts.

BL sales executives took action to counter the most glibly expressed, but the summer's rise in fuel prices, with some experienced, had depressed the entire large car market. By whatever means, however, BL dealers sold an encouraging number of Rover 3500s and the smaller-engined Rover 2500 is still selling well.

Even Rover dealers, for so long the envy of their BL counterparts, have felt the pinch. The flagship of these showrooms and the most sought-after company car, the German-built

unstable produce. It the Commission estimates only 8 per cent of this will take place in comparison with 25 per cent in Germany. Small amounts to British through regional and social fund money in the farm bill, but are also substantial as for sugar and cereals. I only a limited amount to United Kingdom can do its food production, change in the distribution the way in which money will either have to be raised or from spending more money on other. Both of these roads are difficult to follow.

Cutting down farm subsidies is a price which has forced the EEC to present budgetary in national government and frightened of their farm income really severe. Spending more on other is, in some ways, even difficult.

Because Britain does badly out of the farming subsidies spectacularly out of other things to consume. In practice, things do work out like that in the Community. Even if government can get over its reluctance to increase public spending in the Community, Britain's is unlikely to be disproportionately great.

The best weapon Britain has on its side, probably time. The cost of farm budget is increasing year and will soon exceed Community's ability to without a new source of funds. Britain can hold out a that Europe and then it would contribute little, example a levy on oil imports the problem, would solve it.

Although the knowledge this could happen is one of that Europe and then it would contribute little, example a levy on oil imports the problem, would solve it.

Thatcher's hand at the moment the technical problems in translating this into a quick solution for the United Kingdom is very daunting indeed.

Although Mrs Thatcher says that the payments into the budget are in a sense our money, it is not our money. It is a legal fiction. Other Community countries are most unlikely to be unwilling to tear up the tax rules of the Community just because one member wants to pay less. Indeed, they realize that if they give in to our demands on the front, they will have to pay more.

Is there any hope that we can do something about the other side of the balance? As the table shows, Britain accounts for less than its total share of the Community's output. We have so little farming compared to the rest of the EEC. To make matters worse, the Community expenditure goes on farm price support with huge sums of money being spent building up stockpiles of

WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING IN 1979

UK 1147 12.9 295

Belgium 788 8.8 371

Denmark 355 4.0 230

Germany 392 20.7 186

France 1485 16.7 365

Ireland 301 3.4 156

Italy 1516 17.0 812

Luxembourg 175 2.0 14

Netherlands 890 9.5 741

Of which spending on farm price support is: UK 1147 12.9 295

Belgium 788 8.8 371

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Golds buoyant

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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The decade of increases in everything

All other prices have gone up as well but not to the same extent. In the five years to 1977, for instance, while the retail price index doubled, motoring costs rose by 270 per cent. According to the Royal Automobile Club, the average family car (one in the 1300 to 1600



Some company cars are essential for the job; many are perks designed to boost a salary. The company car phenomenon is peculiar to Britain (where salaries are lower than in most continental countries) and is largely sustained by generous tax concessions. Were those allowances to be modified or

tended customers, however, have turned to stay loyal to British makes, partly out of patriotism but also because they find British models cheaper to run. On reliability British cars may have a poor reputation, perhaps not entirely deserved, but that seems to be more than offset by cheaper parts and lower insurance premiums.

The other main British companies, Ford and Vauxhall, have both sought strength in closer ties with Europe. Ford is now run on Continental, rather than national, lines and makes almost the same models in several countries. General

Every year since 1973 (with one exception) it has been the best selling model and will earn that distinction once more in 1979, with the highest annual sales—192,000—it has recorded. The Corrina supplied—and has continued to fulfill—the need

The private buyer will be no less anxious about costs but since the car is a personal possession he may

equipped. A wide choice of models starts from the 1300cc two-door at £3,849 and goes up to the 2300 Ghia estate automatic at just over £7,000.

Peter Waymark

Road Test: Cortina 1600

The most successful British car of the 1970s has been the Corina. Every year since 1973 (with one exception) it has been the best selling model and will earn that distinction once more in 1979, with the highest annual sales—192,000—it has recorded. The Corina supplied—and has continued to supply—the need

East Timor

No end to war after four years

state, Marxist or otherwise, in the Indonesian archipelago did not fit in with the geopolitical plans of the West, not to mention the Indonesians. Admiral Sudomo head of the Indone-

The first post-Vietnam anti-guerrilla war has been fought

hamlets" to isolate them from the Fretilin forces just as the United States tried to do in Vietnam. Since many East Timorese were forced to accompany Fretilin forces into

fighting have been saved by these organizations in relief programmes costing more than £7.5m.

The raids through the mountains further increased the sufferings of the civilian population and the death of Mr Lobato dealt a near-fatal blow

the battle seems already lost and only militarily does he believe he can force a settlement on his terms.

Attacks mounted

supports the suggestion of the three OAU presidents. A number of OAU members have recognized the Democratic Arab Saharan Republic and it is only a matter of time before the

things are going wrong and badly wrong, he feels he has been isolated by the West to see the penalty of doing their work for them.

Ian Murray

[illegible]

A map of East Timor and its surroundings. The main map shows the island of Timor, with 'INDONESIA' to the west and 'EAST TIMOR' to the east. The word 'TIMOR' is written across the island. Cities marked include Dili, Viqueque, and Kupang. A scale bar indicates '100 miles'. An inset map in the bottom right corner shows a larger view of the region, including the 'ARAFURA SEA', 'TIMOR SEA', and 'DARWIN'. It also marks 'Kupang' and 'Dili'. A scale bar for the inset indicates '500 Miles'. The word 'AUSTRALIA' is partially visible at the bottom right of the inset.

A furtive Christmas for Westerners in Saudi Arabia

100

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Vectis Stone ahead by one quarter

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